



DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY

MATT BLUNT
GOVERNOR

FRED FERRELL
DIRECTOR

Organic Certification Cost-Share Program Guidelines

The Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) is pleased to offer another round of organic certification cost-share. Applications will be processed in the order received.

1. *To qualify, does my farm or company have to be located in Missouri?* Yes
2. *What kind of costs will the program reimburse?* Application, inspection and certification costs, but not late fees.
3. *How does MDA determine my eligibility?* You must send a copy of your current organic certificate. If you are being certified for the first time this year, the certificate must be issued from October 1, 2004. If you have continuous certification, we will check with your certifier to make sure it is valid during the program period.
4. *How much am I eligible for?* The payment will depend on the amount you have been billed for certifications between **October 1, 2004** and **the date you apply**. You will receive 75% of itemized costs, up to \$500 per application.
5. *How do I apply?* You must submit **three** items: **A)** Complete application form; **B)** a copy of a current organic certificate; and **C)** a copy of itemized **invoice(s)** from your USDA-NOP accredited certifier dated from October 1, 2004 and the date you submit your application.
6. *Does certification from any certifying agency count?* You must have received organic certification from an USDA-NOP accredited certifying agency. If you have questions about the accreditation status of your certifier, call your certifier or check the NOP Web site www.ams.usda.gov/nop for more information.
7. *What if I am certified as a producer and a handler?* If you have different kinds of certification (**producer** [crop, wild crop and livestock] or **handler**), you qualify for more than one cost-share payment. You must submit separate and complete applications (including certificate copies and copies of the invoice with each application). It is suggested that you mail the applications in separate envelopes.
8. *When is the application due?* **Since funds are limited, we will process applications in the order received by the MDA office.** The program will continue until all funds are exhausted or until September 30, 2006 whichever comes first. All applications must be postmarked by September 30, 2006 but remember that this program is on a first come, first served basis.
9. *What about privacy?* Under state law, if requested, we must provide demographic information including your name and address. We do not release social security numbers or payment amounts.
10. *Where do I send the application?* Mail to: MDA Organic Certification Cost-Share Program, P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102-0630.
11. *Will this program continue in the future?* Missouri expects to exhaust the federal and state cost-share funds after this year. Whether the program continues or not will depend on the actions of the U.S. Congress and the state legislators.
12. *What if I have questions?* Contact: Allan Benjamin at MDA: (573) 522-9656 or Allan.Benjamin@mda.mo.gov

Division of Plant Industries

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